

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 2, 5-8 and 23 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sawatsubashi et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,148,301) in view of *Wakai et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,166,085).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claims 2 and 23 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 7 and 8 have been amended and claims 24-25 have been newly added by this amendment. Accordingly, claims 1, 5-21, 24 and 25 are currently pending, with claims 1, 5-8, 24 and 25 being under consideration.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 5-8 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sawatsubashi et al.* in view of *Wakai et al.* This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claims 2 and 23

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2 and 23 as the cancellation of claims 2 and 23 renders the rejections moot.

Claim 1

Applicants respectfully submit that *Sawatsubashi et al.* and *Wakai et al.*, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest every feature of independent claim 1, as newly-amended. For example, it is respectfully submitted that *Sawatsubashi et al.* and *Wakai et*

al., whether taken separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the claimed combination as set forth in independent claim 1, as newly-amended, including at least “a seal pattern formed in a sealing area peripherally to said active area, and adhering said first substrate to said second substrate,” and “an electrode pattern formed within the sealing area on the second substrate, wherein the electrode pattern is completely embedded within a lengthwise portion of the seal pattern and is directly covered by the seal pattern.”

The Final Office Action asserts that the pixel electrode (103) of *Sawatsubashi et al.* corresponds to the electrode pattern, as set forth in independent claim 1. Then, the Final Office Action goes on asserting that the seal member (108) of *Sawatsubashi et al.* completely surrounds the gate line driving circuit (103), “i.e., the electrode pattern 103 completely embedded with the seal pattern 108.” Paragraph 2, lines 10-11 of the Final Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse and challenge the Office Action’s assertion and request that evidence be provided in accordance with M.P.E.P. §2144.03. In fact, as shown in FIG. 4 of *Sawatsubashi et al.*, the electrode (103) neither contacts the seal member (108) nor is completely embedded within the seal member (108), as set forth in Applicants’ claimed combination.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that the pixel electrode (103) of *Sawatsubashi et al.* is not formed within a sealing area and is not directly covered by a seal pattern, as set forth in Applicants’ claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that *Sawatsubashi et al.* and *Wakai et al.*, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the claimed combination as set forth in independent claim 1, as newly-amended, including at least “a seal pattern formed in a sealing area peripherally to said active area, and adhering said first substrate to said second substrate,” and “an electrode pattern formed within the sealing area on the second

substrate, wherein the electrode pattern is completely embedded within a lengthwise portion of the seal pattern and is directly covered by the seal pattern.”

Further, it is respectfully submitted that *Wakai et al.* is not relied upon as teaching an electrode pattern or a seal pattern. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that *Wakai et al.* also fails to teach or suggest the claimed combination as set forth in independent claim 1 including at least “a seal pattern formed in a sealing area peripherally to said active area, and adhering said first substrate to said second substrate,” and “an electrode pattern formed within the sealing area on the second substrate, wherein the electrode pattern is completely embedded within a lengthwise portion of the seal pattern and is directly covered by the seal pattern.”

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that *Sawatsubashi et al.* and *Wakai et al.*, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the claimed combination as set forth in independent claim 1, as newly-amended, including at least “a seal pattern formed in a sealing area peripherally to said active area, and adhering said first substrate to said second substrate,” and “an electrode pattern formed within the sealing area on the second substrate, wherein the electrode pattern is completely embedded within a lengthwise portion of the seal pattern and is directly covered by the seal pattern.”

Since *Sawatsubashi et al.* and *Wakai et al.*, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest every feature of independent claim 1, as newly-amended, it is respectfully submitted that *Sawatsubashi et al.* in view of *Wakai et al.* do not render claim 1 unpatentable.

Claims 5-8

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5-8 are allowable at least because of their dependence from claim 1 and the features recited therein. For instance, Applicants respectfully submit that *Sawatsubashi et al.* and *Wakai et al.*, whether taken separately or in combination, fail

to teach or suggest the claimed combination as set forth in claim 7 including at least “said electrode pattern forms a first electric field with said common electrode in the sealing area.” In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that *Sawatsubashi et al.* and *Wakai et al.*, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the claimed combination as set forth in claim 8 including at least “wherein said electrode pattern is applied with a constant DC bias voltage.”

The Final Office Action asserts that “[a]n operation LCD device comprises a mode in which an E-field is applied between the upper(common) electrode and the lower(pixel) electrode,” and “TFT(s) serves [as] a switching means to the pixel electrode.” Paragraph 3, lines 12-14 of the Final Office Action. However, as shown in FIG. 4 of *Sawatsubashi et al.*, the pixel electrode (103) is formed within “a display region (111) for displaying a required image.” Column 4, lines 48-50 of *Sawatsubashi et al.* Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the E-field between the common electrode and the pixel electrode of *Sawatsubashi et al.*, as purported by the Final Office Action, would not be in a sealing area, as set forth in Applicants’ claimed combinations. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that *Sawatsubashi et al.* and *Wakai et al.*, whether taken separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the claimed combination as set forth in claim 7 including at least “said electrode pattern forms a first electric field with said common electrode in the sealing area,” or the claimed combination as set forth in claim 8 including at least “wherein said electrode pattern is applied with a constant DC bias voltage.”

In light of the above, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-8 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

New Claims 24-25

Applicants have added new claims 24 and 25 to differently define the present invention. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 24 is supported by, for example, the discussion at paragraphs [0036]-[0037] of the specification. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 25 is supported by, for example, the discussion at paragraphs [0038]-[0039] of the specification and FIG. 6.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 24 and 25 are allowable at least because of their dependence from claim 1 and the features recited therein. For instance, Applicants respectfully submit that neither *Sawatsubashi et al.* nor *Wakai et al.* teaches or suggests the claimed combination as set forth in claim 24 including at least “wherein said electrode pattern forms a first electric field with said common electrode in the sealing area,” and “wherein said common electrode forms a second electric field with said pixel electrode, the first and second electric fields being different from each other.” In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that neither *Sawatsubashi et al.* nor *Wakai et al.* teaches or suggests the claimed combination as set forth in claim 25 including at least “wherein corner portions of said seal pattern have an outwardly curved projection.” Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 24 and 25 are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited. Should there remain any questions or comments regarding this response or the application in general, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

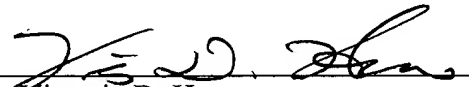
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 14, 2004

By: _____



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